



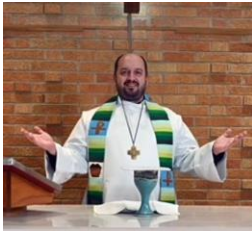
# St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

*Faith – Service – Community*

Monthly News & Updates

December 2024



## A Letter from Pastor Bo

December 2024

Christ is Coming! Listen for the promises that we wait for God to fulfill. Seek their presence now each and every day as we live by faith.

During this season:

**Don't** get distracted by sports, politics, parties, and shopping.

**Do** make new friends.

**Do** help those in need.

**Do** focus your heart on Christ entering into this world.

**Do** be faithful in prayer, worship, and generosity, because it's good for you!

December 1<sup>st</sup> – **Watch, Advent 1.** God promises a day to come when every promise will be fulfilled. And yet there is a warning that it could pass us by, or sneak up on us unawares. Maybe this could be the promise of every single day. Let's learn how to be alert.

December 8<sup>th</sup> – **Wash, Advent 2.** When God's kingdom comes, we need some cleansing and purification. We are not clean. We are supposed to be the agents of God's joyous news, but no one wants to listen to us. Let's receive the washing God brings to purify us.

December 15<sup>th</sup> – **Rejoice, Advent 3.** We can rejoice that God does get God's way. Which means that our mouths and hearts can be filled with laughter and joy. Think: What if everything sad about your life and the world became untrue? This is the real hope of Advent.

December 22<sup>nd</sup> – **Reverse, Advent 4.** In God's kingdom, the small become big; the weak become strong. And the opposite is also true. Jesus is the great equalizer.

Christmas Eve – **Good News.** Good news of great joy for everybody.

December 29<sup>th</sup> – **Growth and Newness.** – The Word of God dwelling among us invites us to dwell with him and grow together in the knowledge of God.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



## Important Dates

## December 1 – Advent Family Night

## December 8 – Music Sunday

December 14 – *Joseph & Mary*  
Presentation

## December 15 – Congregational Budget Meeting

## December 24 – Christmas Eve

## December 25 – Christmas Day

## Food Pantry Current Need

Our **most critical needs** right now are:

- Cereal
- Boxed Pasta
- Chef Boyardee
- Canned Beef Stew
- Canned Chili
- Canned Potatoes
- Canned Black Beans
- Knorr Sides
- Rice a Roni

Additionally, we are looking for donations of metal cabinets to store our inventory. Call Alan at 215-675-1298.

All donations are appreciated, thank you!



## Food Pantry Report

Last month's report inadvertently neglected the September collection at St. John's by the Community Outreach Committee. We regret the error and thank both the committee and the members of St. John's for their contributions.

In October Church of the Advent conducted a matching campaign for personal care items. Whatever the congregation donated, the church matched. The end result was 126 tubes of toothpaste, 360 bars of soap, 75 shampoos, 24 toothbrushes. We are very grateful for their support.

October was an unusual month in that because of the way the days lined up we actually had five full weeks of serving clients. 499 families were served during the month making the average 100 families per week. That seems to be our new steady number.

We are gearing up for the holiday season. Gathering of items for Thanksgiving meals is well under way.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity.  
Have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

# LAST MONTH

## Youth Group Friendsgiving

Our Youth Group came together to share a Thanksgiving meal!





## Youth Sunday

Our youth led worship again in November. As usual, they all did a wonderful job. Thank you to Ashley Yankowski for preaching!



## Youth News & Events



Sunday School is back! Bring your child to Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10 am. All kids ages 3 (and potty trained) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us! Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

### Lesson Schedule:

December 1 – Angel Comes to Mary

December 8 – **No Sunday School**

December 15 – Jesus Is Born

December 22 – Santa Visit

December 29 – **No Sunday School**



**Youth Group is held on the third Saturday of every month at 6:30 pm, from September – May.**

This month's Youth Group will be a gift exchange on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm. This event will be held offsite. Please reach out to Abbie Metheny for details!



### Nursery

The nursery has been relocated to the Library. We are working to staff the nursery each week so that parents can drop their children off before worship, and pick them up after the service. The nursery will be open from 9:50 – 10 minutes after the service ends on Sunday mornings.

In the event that the nursery is not staffed, it is still open for parents to sit with their children if they need a break. There will be signs posted on the door to mark whether the nursery is staffed or not.



### Children's Library

If parents do not want to use the staffed nursery, but their child needs a break from worship, they are welcome to use the Children's Library, located beside the Sunday School office.

The library will also be open after worship each week. Parents are welcome to sign out books on the clipboard, and bring them back when finished.

# CHURCH NEWS



## Advent Wreath Readers

We need families or groups of friends to sign up to read short readings and light the candles of the Advent wreath during each service in Advent. There is a sign-up sheet on the Hospitality Table.



## Book Club

Come join us at book club! We meet monthly and discuss the book of the month.

Each member chooses a book and we rotate through each member. Our next book for book club is "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon. We'll meet on **December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4 pm** in the church library.



## Giving Tree

Beginning Saturday, November 30th and continuing through Sunday, December 15th, the Community Outreach Ministries Committee will be collecting gift cards and some gifts. You may take a gift tag off the tree which will be in the Narthex. We will be supporting the Breathing Room, which helps families affected by cancer, Valley

Youth House in Warminster, which gives youth between the ages of 13 and 19, a safe place to live, and A Woman's Place, which helps women and children in domestic violence situations. All items must be returned by Sunday, December 15th.

Gift Cards should be sent to the Church Office, or given to the Church Office during office hours, or put in an envelope and placed in the offering plate. **Please remember to attach the gift card receipt to the gift card, and please tell to which organization you would like it donated.**

Thank you, the Community Outreach Ministries Committee.





Join us on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm for our annual Advent Family Night potluck dinner. Sign up on the bulletin board to attend.



We're gearing up for Music Sunday on **December 8<sup>th</sup>**! Michael Brinkworth and all of our ensembles are working hard and can't wait for the big day!



### Christmas Caroling

We are going caroling on Sunday, **December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall, then leave to carol around the area for approximately two hours before returning for treats, hot chocolate, and stories for the children. We are looking for singers and drivers to join us for a night of singing, stories, and snacks! Please sign up in Fellowship Hall!



### Poinsettia Dedications

Dedication forms for Christmas poinsettias will be attached to bulletins as well as loose on the Hospitality Table. Poinsettias are \$18 each this year. Please turn your dedications into the office **no later than December 18<sup>th</sup>**.



### Glass Ornaments for Sale

On **December 8**, following the service, we will be selling clear etched ornaments from the original windows in Fellowship Hall. There is a limited number. The large ones, 6 x 6", will be sold for \$75. The smaller ones, 5 x 5", will be sold for \$50. They are wrapped in silver and have a chain for hanging. We also have some of the colored glass ornaments that were sold a few years ago. They will be \$16 for a boxed ornament and \$15 for one without a box. Again, there is a limited number. No advance orders. Payment is cash or check made out to St. John's. All proceeds go to the General Budget.

Joseph & Mary



Our very own Bob Evans has been working tirelessly on a musical. We will see it on Saturday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>**, at 7 pm. The musical follows the lives and struggles encountered by Joseph and Mary as they followed their faith and convictions from their home in Nazareth through to the birth of their son Jesus, in Bethlehem.



### Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies' Lunch Bunch will have a special event on **Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at noon in Fellowship Hall**. Hoagies and all the fixings will be provided, along with drinks and desserts (we need volunteers to bring desserts). The cost will be \$7 per person. If you are coming please sign up on the bulletin board **no later than Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Someone will be collecting money after the Sunday services on November 24<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. We hope you come and enjoy the food and fellowship on December 17<sup>th</sup>!



### Congregational Budget Meeting

We will be holding a meeting to approve the 2025 budget on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**, after the 10:00 worship service. Please attend so we can approve the budget before the New Year! This meeting is in addition to our Annual Meeting in January.



### Christmas Eve Service Schedule

We will have three candlelight services on Christmas Eve, at **2pm, 5pm, and 8pm**, with the following details:

**2:00pm**

Candlelight service with Communion

**5:00pm**

Candlelight kids' service, no Communion

**8:00pm**

Candlelight service with Communion



### County Choraliers Concert

The County Choraliers' 2024 "A Christmas Wish for You" concert will be on Sunday, **December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm**. A free-will offering is appreciated. We hope to see you there!





# Thank You!

The Community Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for going well above what was donated last year for our annual Thanksgiving project. There were \$1395.00 in gift cards to the three grocery stores listed on our tags. The gift cards were delivered to Grace Lutheran on November 17th. The congregation sent thanks and was very grateful to all who donated.

Dear St. John's, Thank you for the beautiful flowers from the church service, Sunday Nov. 14, 2024. It was so nice to be remembered in this way. I deeply appreciate it very much. Thank you also to Helen Linn of the Altar Guild and to Veronica Howells who brought the flowers to my home. - Mary Anne Whitehead

## Finance Corner

### End of October Deficit Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status through 10/31/24	
Income	\$338,791.00
Expenses	\$393,562.49
Deficit	\$54,771.49



## Help Wanted

Are you...

- a Confirmand who needs to meet your Worship Participation requirements?
- a student looking for Community Service Opportunities?
- someone interested in learning a new skill and helping out behind the scenes?

Bob Muller would love your help running the cameras, lights, and sound equipment that take our weekend and online services to the next level!



## Check Out Our Website!

Please find us at [www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org](http://www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org) to stay up to date on what's happening at St. John's! Find Pastor Bo's sermons, upcoming events, and information about the church and the food pantry, and more!

### Like Us on Facebook & Instagram!



St. John's Lutheran  
Church – Hatboro



@sjlch505



### Subscribe to Our YouTube Channel!

We're trying to get to 100 Subscribers! You can find us on YouTube by searching "St. John's Lutheran Church Hatboro."

### Our Mission:

To be a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ.

### Our Vision:

To give people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God.

### Church Staff & Contact Information



Pastor Bo Bannister

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Minister of Music: Michael Brinkworth

Director of Christian Education: Abbie Metheny

Email: [sjchrised@gmail.com](mailto:sjchrised@gmail.com)

Office Administrator: Ashdon Bobbie

Social Media Coordinator: Jess Flynn

Media Coordinator: Bob Muller

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